The “Invisible Mission Field”

Introducing Cody Francis, Dean of the College

There’s a Fire in My Bones to Train Workers
“Hi, my name is David Castellanos. I’m a Christian Media Management major from Colombia. I’m also an MTF student, meaning I receive help from Hartland’s Missionary Training Fund for my studies. My experience here so far has been a great blessing. Not only do I get to study subjects I enjoy, but I get to grow in Christ and serve God as I study here. Hartland is a place where young people can develop both physically and spiritually to work for God. One of the most important aspects of my education here has been working at Hartland Natural Farm. There I’ve learned practical skills and have been developing my character. Taking care of the plants, sowing, planting, and doing the different activities required to produce a harvest have drawn me closer to God. I’ve learned that in order to produce fruit, we have to work with perseverance, sacrifice, and dedication.

Back in my homeland, I knew that God had a calling for my life. I first studied at Las Delicias, a missionary school in Colombia. I heard about Hartland College after I began working as staff at there. Some of the other staff members told me about this school where I could continue studying to receive a better preparation. I’m really thankful for the MTF because without this fund, surely I wouldn’t be here. I’m sure it was God who made this possible.

Hartland has made the difference in my life. The fact that I’ve had to depend on the Lord to be able to study here and to have my personal needs met has helped me to pray more, to search for God every moment, and increase my faith in Him. Hartland has taught me that the things that we have here on this earth, we have only by the mercy of God, who provides for our daily needs.

I have a great burden for the work in Colombia, especially for Las Delicias. I plan to return there to help with the educational program by teaching some classes and working in the media department, doing projects to help both Adventists and non-Adventists.

To those who give to the MTF, thank you so much for greatly helping us. You’re making it possible for young people from all over the world to prepare to work for God.

“I want to use my media skills to reach people in Colombia for Christ.”

by David Castellanos as told to Kelly Ostrom

Preparing to Be a Media Missionary
Using Literature to Do Gospel Work
Hartland religion majors share how God used them to spread His Word through the colporteur ministry.

**Sent to Teach the Word**
I canvassed a young lady who seemed a bit skeptical. But then I told her I’m studying to be a pastor, and her facial expression changed. Then she said, “I have a lot of questions for you.” I spent an hour and a half giving her a Bible study on the Sabbath, the state of the dead, and so on. It turned out she had been keeping the Sabbath for the past six months and had never met a Seventh-day Adventist. She bought four books.

*Jermaine Gayle*, Pennsylvania
Junior, Pastoral Evangelism

**Power in Sharing Your Testimony**
A family invited me into their house for lunch, and I shared my testimony with them—how God led me to study to be a pastor. They all started crying, and they wanted to help me with my education. They bought seven books, including *The Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ*, and *The Desire of Ages*. Later, another man asked me why I’m studying to be pastor. I shared the same testimony with him, and right there he bought all the message books and children’s books I had—nine books altogether.

*Matthew Farley*, Maine
Junior, Pastoral Evangelism

**Divine Appointment in the Parking Lot**
I showed the books I had to a lady in a parking lot. As she looked at the books she would say, “I want this one. Oh, I need this one.” Instead of paying for her car insurance, she used her money to buy eight books. She told me, “It’s amazing that you’re here. I was supposed to be here two hours ago, but I kept getting delayed. Now I know why I was delayed for two hours. I had to be here at this time so I could get these books.”

*Cwayita Ntsikeni*, South Africa
Junior, Bible Instruction
The “Invisible Mission Field”
God continues to open doors of opportunity for Hartland College Prison Ministry.

Behind prison walls are men and women who have made bad choices. Whether by greed, a lack of self-control, or unwise associations, they’re facing the consequences of their actions,” says Johny Carmouche, a former inmate. “Many feel deep regret, and desire to make changes in their lives, but they don’t know how.”

Hartland College Prison Ministry (HCPM), spearheaded by Johny and Brian Beavers, has a team of volunteers, most of whom are Hartland staff and students. They give Bible studies and inspiring messages to inmates in six facilities. Also, they distribute Bibles to prisoners who request them.

Once a week, HCPM now ministers to five inmates at the Fluvanna Correctional Center (CC) for Women. “They are very open and hungry for truth,” shares Ivonne Restrepo, an HCPM volunteer. “They studied about the Sabbath, and one lady prayed that she could get a job within the prison that would allow her to keep the Sabbath. She now praises God that she can work and keep the Sabbath.”

HCPM also conducts a weekly service at the Culpeper Juvenile CC. “Our work at the juvenile facility continues in Bible study form,” Brian relates. “Hartland College students minister to 18 to 20-year-old residents.”

Two more weekly services take place at the Coffeewood CC, where HCPM ministers to more than 35 inmates. One service is for English and Spanish-speaking Seventh-day Adventists, and the other is for Messianic Jews. Today four Coffeewood inmates, plus two who were transferred, are baptized Seventh-day Adventists.

Virginia’s Department of Corrections (DOC) has granted both Johny and Brian the statewide volunteer status. They currently conduct one monthly program at the Augusta CC, and another at the Buckingham CC. They minister to nearly 60 inmates in both facilities.

“The men at Buckingham received our first visit with much skepticism,” Johny recalls. “We bided our time uplifting Jesus in our messages, and their hearts were softened. They grow more receptive each time we go.” Virginia’s DOC has authorized three more HCPM volunteers to minister at Buckingham.

Johny concludes, “No matter where you live, there’s a need to reach God’s lost children in prison.” They’re not so different from the rest of us—we all need a Savior. In fact, if you’d like to help, you can simply write letters to inmates without disclosing your name and address. For more information, call HCPM at 540-672-1996 ext 287.
Jody Veler searched for an inpatient smoking cessation program for over a year until she stumbled across Hartland’s Lifestyle Education Center (LEC) via the internet. She describes her former smoking and eating habits as “out of control.”

“Over the years, you say to yourself, ‘I really need to stop this,’ but it just never happens. I knew I wasn’t going to be able to do it on my own,” she admits. Jody describes leaving her old habits behind as “challenging” and “nerve-racking,” but the atmosphere at the LEC soon dispelled her fears.

“It was very loving, very Christian. No matter what you need, somebody in the staff will go out of their way to make sure your needs are met, even if it’s someone to sit with and pray with and hold your hand. They really go above and beyond anything you can expect anywhere else.”

Although Jody expected a vegan diet, she was startled to find out a juice fast and lemon water fast was in her program to help overcome nicotine craving. “I wasn’t sure I was going to be able to handle it, but the day I drank nothing but lemon water I was never hungry. Now I’m the lemon water queen! I’m never without a jar of it in my hand—it cuts my craving for nicotine.”

Not only did Jody quit smoking during her stay, she experienced other benefits. “I feel lighter— I’ve lost eight pounds in four days. I’m not wheezing like I was when I got here, and my physical fitness has improved because every day we’ve gone for walks.”

Asked how the program has changed her life, Jody promptly responds, “You know what? I feel a lot closer to God since I got here. I feel so much calmer and more joyous and my outlook on everything is just brighter. Even when we’re doing something I don’t like, it doesn’t bother me because I know that it’s going to be good in the end. This is God’s plan—what God intended for us—and it’s going to work out really well if you just do this little sacrifice. You know you have this great big reward at the end of it!”

Would Jody recommend the program to others? “I would greatly encourage everyone to come here. There’s so much knowledge that you’re given over the course of four or five days. I can’t wait for the bigger lifestyle center to reopen so that you can take twice as many people!”
Teaching Future Teachers

“Hartland did not only teach me—it showed me what true education is.”
by Kevin Wahl

“I was born into a Seventh-day Adventist family, but I did not understand what true conversion was. I simply went with the flow, tradition, and expectations of family and church members,” shares Jeremiah Cebeda “Jerry” Fameronag. “At Hartland, the Lord taught me true conversion. The Bible classes and the school culture complimented each other in teaching me that I was created to serve. There I learned what practical Christianity is all about.”

He continues, “The vocational training, mission trips, curriculum classes, Piedmont Valley Youth Bible Camps, camp meetings, and canvassing all contributed in helping me understand what an authentic Christian education really is. The sound teachings and the example of mission-minded staff and students helped me realize that life is more than achieving education, fame, and fortune. It’s all about service. I’m glad I’ve found my purpose in life.”

Jerry, a native of the Philippines, graduated from Hartland College in 2008. “I’ve always believed that I’m called to be an educator. The Lord put the passion in my heart to minister especially to high school students. They are more susceptible to the snares of the world due to hormonal changes and peer pressure. To address this spiritual demand, I majored in Christian Secondary Education, with emphasis on teaching English.”

Today Jerry is married to Sung Eun “Elyse” Kim, and they are blessed with a baby boy, Ye Han Rydd. Jerry currently teaches education classes at the Adventist University of the Philippines. “The calling to be an educator became a reality right after I finished my postgraduate studies at the same school. My prayer when I studied at Hartland was ‘Lord, help me train and minister to youth in my home country.’ The Lord finally answered my prayer.

“Each day, I find joy seeing future educators understand what true education is all about. Integration of faith and biblical values in all my classes is a source of unexplainable happiness. I believe that the Lord has prepared me for this work, and He used Hartland College that I may be an educator whose mission is not merely to fill someone’s mind with theory and principles, but rather to impress upon him God’s purpose in each of our lives—to be like Christ.”
Why I Chose Hartland College

We’ve begun a new school year with many new students, and some of them share why they’re here!

I had the opportunity to attend a state university that recently opened a midwifery department. It’s only 15 minutes from home. I’d be living with my parents, driving my own car, and studying in my own language. My studies would be almost free with the scholarships my grades could get me. But something would be missing—Jesus. I chose to attend Hartland—the only Seventh-day Adventist college that teaches midwifery—because I wanted to obey God’s voice, to follow Him, and to grow closer to Him every day.

Alexandra Carrasquillo, Puerto Rico

Midwifery

It offers the true higher education and training necessary for the mission field. The staff are dedicated and the students are friendly—a good environment for spiritual and intellectual growth.

Violet Hano, North Carolina

Bible Instruction

Health Ministry Minor

It has a Spirit of Prophecy and Bible-centered program, and I would be challenged and encouraged to devote myself more fully to ministry. Also, I love the country setting and the love of the brethren.

Lindelinkosi Nyoni, Zimbabwe

Pastoral Evangelism

I want to be in a school where I can grow spiritually and develop a Christlike character.

Kimberly Peralta, Arizona

Midwifery

I had the opportunity to attend a state university that recently opened a midwifery department. It’s only 15 minutes from home. I’d be living with my parents, driving my own car, and studying in my own language. My studies would be almost free with the scholarships my grades could get me. But something would be missing—Jesus. I chose to attend Hartland—the only Seventh-day Adventist college that teaches midwifery—because I wanted to obey God’s voice, to follow Him, and to grow closer to Him every day.

Alexandra Carrasquillo, Puerto Rico

Midwifery
How and when did you hear about Hartland?
Right around when I was baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist over 20 years ago, the friends who gave us Bible studies also told us about Hartland. I desired to study at Hartland, but the Lord directed elsewhere.

What did you do before coming here?
I lived in Washington, outside of Seattle. There I was the lay pastor of a church that the Lord used me, along with some others, to plant around six years ago.

How else have you served God since you became a Seventh-day Adventist?
I am very thankful to the Lord for allowing me to serve Him in various ways. I began working full-time for the Lord at age 18 as a Bible worker. It was a great joy giving Bible studies and sharing Jesus’ love with people individually in their homes. Then the Lord opened doors for me to become involved in public evangelism. A church elder asked me to conduct a series of meetings in another town where we had been doing literature distribution. After giving that series of meetings, I began receiving requests to hold more evangelistic meetings in the US and other countries. Over the past 15 plus years, the Lord has given me more than 40 opportunities to evangelize in Europe, Africa, and North and South America.

For the last 13 years, I have been directing Mission Projects International. This ministry not only helps mission work by doing evangelism, but also by supplying the local workers on the ground with tools for them to evangelize and do soul-winning efforts after the evangelistic series is over. I have enjoyed being able to oversee the building of churches, schools, mission stations, printing projects, and more in multiple countries.

How did God lead you to Hartland?
I have always had a burden, not only for evangelism, but also for evangelistic training. Many times while conducting
evangelism, we have held field training schools, as well. I have also had the privilege of working with Hartland students as interns at our church in Washington State and in overseas mission work. As Hartland’s need for help arose and our burden for training young people for evangelistic missionary service grew, the Lord put the pieces together and opened the path for us to come to Hartland. So as we prayed that the Lord would direct our steps in ministry for Him, He convicted us that it was now time to unite our efforts with Hartland in training workers for these last days.

Hartland hired me to serve as dean of the college—a position that I am not qualified to fill, but I trust that the Lord will give me the grace and wisdom which the position demands. I greatly appreciate the many years of faithful service from my predecessor, Joong Ho Shin, and I am thankful that he will continue to guide me in my learning process.

What do you like most about Hartland?
The students with their youthful zeal, vision, and energy to serve the Lord. There is no greater joy than seeing young people who make or renew their commitment to the Lord. Then to see God bless their efforts as they go out to serve lost mankind, pointing people to the Savior and sharing the last message of mercy, makes our efforts worthwhile.

What is your vision for the college, and how do you plan to make it a reality?
Hartland has rendered a tremendous service for 30 years. The vision of Hartland College—“educating for eternity”—is my vision for the college. Educating the students to live throughout eternity, training them to serve the lost world today, and encouraging them in their ministry until Jesus comes, are my priorities. Hartland will continue to be very strong in solid Bible instruction, and my desire is to strengthen the evangelistic thrust of each major so that whether preaching, teaching, healing, or designing media, evangelism and saving souls will be the heart and core. I would also like to expand our program so that not only will we offer our traditional four-year courses, but also shorter, focused and intensive classes and tracks to enable others to experience the joys of learning and serving in ministry.
My time at Hartland was a time of learning and unlearning many things. I learned a lot about my true character. I grew to know God more as a Father who loves me and does not cast me off because of my weaknesses, but works with me to remove them. I’ve learned how to study the Bible for myself and how to effectively teach and preach it to others.

When I was considering my internship site, the Lord suddenly brought Riverside Farm Institute to my mind. I’d heard about the place in 2009 while applying to study at Hartland. Riverside is a self-supporting school that has been operating in Zambia since 1974, and they have good industries that support their school, wellness center, and 60-plus Bible workers.

I’m currently doing my internship at Riverside’s wellness center, working as the chaplain. I basically take care of the workers’ and health guests’ spiritual needs here by praying, counseling, and having Bible studies with them. I also speak at staff worships each Sunday on righteousness by faith. I’m presently preparing to teach a prophecy class, after which I’ll teach a class on the sanctuary.

I’ve been at Riverside for a month and a half now, and I already see the benefits of my training. Every experience I’ve had, from the Bible classes to teaching at Hartland Elementary School, has helped prepare me to teach the Bible effectively. All the people here say they appreciate the depth and yet simplicity of the Bible studies, and I know Hartland’s training has played a major role in developing that talent.

On my internship so far, I’ve witnessed the conversion of some of my students, healing and restoration in the lives of some health guests, and I’m learning from this ministry what I can apply to Pure Light for Africa—a project I’m working on alongside Hartland graduate Loago Setswalo, to start a missionary training school in Southern Africa. I’m learning a lot about what works in self-supporting ministry and evangelism in this part of the world.

There’s so much thirst for truth and righteousness and so great a lack of well-trained and consecrated workers, it puts fire in my bones to have a lot of workers trained. Through this internship, God is already making part of my vision a reality—to do evangelism and train gospel workers in different parts of Africa. May we all draw nearer to God so we can finish the work!
When Christ was here on earth, He exemplified what true ministry is all about. His work consisted of both healing physical and spiritual disease. He also entrusted His disciples with this same mission. “And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” Mathew 10:1.

A practical godliness is manifested through unselfish service. It is evidence of the gospel’s transforming power. Medical ministry has the power to break down prejudice and open hearts to the spiritual principles of the gospel. “And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday.” Isaiah 58:10.

Today we are seeing an increasing emphasis on the role and importance of medical ministry within our church. At Hartland College, all the students learn medical missionary skills, whatever their major may be. What a blessing and honor to be able to fulfill this role! With humility in our hearts we are to work together in this vast field of service, laying pride aside and not esteeming ourselves better than others.

We are told that “every person should have a knowledge of nature’s remedial agencies and how to apply them. It is essential both to understand the principles involved in the treatment of the sick and to have a practical training that will enable one rightly to use this knowledge.”¹ “Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies.”²

The practice of a healthy lifestyle and an intelligent knowledge of these principles enable us to lead others in a loving way to see the importance of right habits of living. “Every city is to be entered by workers trained to do medical missionary work. As the right hand of the third angel’s message, God’s methods of treating disease will open doors for the entrance of present truth.”³ It is our duty and privilege to accept this call today!

Norbert Restrepo Jr., President

¹ White, Ellen G., The Ministry of Healing, p. 127
² Ibid.
³ White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 59
We thank those who have given in memory of...

- Rex Horner and Tammy Allen by Billy and Jean Horner
- Clayton Howell by Athalia Howell
- Mary Ellen Lenihan by Carl Rennhack
- David Michael Shima by Maureen Shima
- Jacob Teske by Mildred Teske

In honor of...

Simdumise Poswa by Susanne Wanzer